

**Minutes of the Rivers Council Meeting held
13 September 2006, 9:00 AM**
Conference Room B
William E. Powers State Administration Building
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

ATTENDANCE:

A. Members Present

Joe Baer
Patrick Hanner
Meg Kerr (Chair)
Guy Lefebvre
Scott Millar (Vice Chair)
Sharon Pavignano
Jane Sherman
Kevin Nelson
Will Riverso
Mike Walker

B. Members Absent

Kevin Cute
Dale Grogan
Stephen Kearns

C. Watershed Councils in Attendance

Ann Morrill, KRC
Bruce Hooke, WRWC
Ted Callender, SPC

D. Guests in Attendance

Keith Gonsalves, Ten Mile River
Heidi Green, QDC
Evan Matthews, RIEDC/QDC
Jerry Elmer, CLF
Cynthia Giles, CLF
Liv Fetterman, CLF

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approval of minutes June 14, 2006.** Mr. Millar moved approval, Mr. Baer seconded, all approved.
Approval of minutes July 12, 2006. Mr. Millar moved approval, Mr. Nelson seconded, all approved.

- 2. CLF Stormwater Research in Blackstone.** Ms. Giles introduced Mr. Elmer, CLF's new staff attorney and Liv Fetterman, CLF intern working on the Blackstone project.

Summarizing progress to date:

- Statewide general stormwater permit. Promulgated by DEM in 2006.
- Implementation. CLF has developed a procedure for identifying potential sources of stormwater using Google earth. Protocol will be posted on CLF web site. Watershed councils are invited to use the protocol, fill in the data sheet and submit to DEM. DEM will determine if the facilities are currently permitted and follow up if they are not.

- 3. Expenditure of \$3,000 for Blueway Web Development.**

Mr. Hooke proposed to develop a stand alone web site for the Blueway and presented a written proposal to the Council.

Ms. Sherman asked why the site would be at a separate web site. Ms. Kerr explained that the Blueway is envisioned as a broad collaboration with possible independent management in the long run.

Mr. Lefebvre asked if the RC would own the domain and was told that we would for now.

Mr. Hanner asked what software would be used to maintain the site. Mr. Hooke said that any web editing software would work. Most of the site will be interactive.

Mr. Baer asked if the site would have text and photos – it will.

Mr. Nelson made a motion to allocate \$3,000 to fund the proposal presented by Mr. Hooke. Mr. Lefebvre seconded and all approved.

- 4. RC Funding Committee/Treasurer.**

Ms. Kerr introduced Mr. Baer as the new chair of the funding committee. The Council agreed to amend Council procedures to allow for a Treasurer and Secretary.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

- 5. Report from Chair (attached to end of minutes)**

- 6. Discussion of Staff Transition**

The Council had a general discussion of the Council's role and legislative mandate vs. the work currently funded by the Rhode Island Foundation and agreed to spend the October meeting discussing the Council's future and making decisions on the Council's staffing. Ms. Kerr agreed to send the Council:

- Rivers Council Legislation
- Rivers Council Procedures (we do not have bylaws)
- Gayle Gifford's report from 2004
- Annotated Workplan

- 7. Adjourn (10:55 AM)**



Rivers Council

Report from the Chair
September 13, 2006

ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Grants.** Our EPA education grant (for Watershed Stewards program) was turned down. We have Rhode Island Foundation Grant (\$55,000) pending for staff salary. The Infrastructure Collaborative (IC) has a RIF grant pending for the back office project. The IC's pre-proposal to the VolunteerIMPACT fund was accepted and we are working on a full proposal.
- **Personnel.** We are working on a contractual basis with Rachel Sholly (web content for the Stewards program, paid from \$2,500 RIF mini-grant and from 2006 RC Legislative funds). Carolyn Richardson (evaluating sites along the Pawtuxet River and helping organize a paddling event in September, paid from \$3,000 PRA grant) has completed her work (as of Sept 11).

SUPPORT AND EMPOWER WATERSHED COUNCILS

- **Watershed Council Grants.** Funds have still not been transferred from the WRB to the RINHS so we have not processed the grant for the SRHCC. They are interested in an extension.
- **Infrastructure Collaborative – the Back Office Support project (members Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, Rivers Council, Westerly Land Trust, Barrington Land Conservation Trust, Land Trust Council).** Implementation is proceeding. Jennifer Styles is our shared volunteer coordinator. She is helping the Rivers Council recruit volunteers for the Stewardship program and the Blueway project.
- **Land and Water Summit.** The Summit will be held March 24, 2007 at the URI Memorial Union. Lorraine Joubert is planning a track on municipal training, Rupert and I are beginning to plan other sessions. We have put out an rfp for marketing and administrative support.

FOSTER PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN RIVER PROTECTION

- **Watershed Stewards.** The class starts next Tuesday (Sept 19). We have an excellent program planned and will have about 20 participants. Rachel Sholly has done a lot of background research that will be included in the participant notebook and will be posted on our web site.
- **Water Trail project. DATA COLLECTION:** We have been documenting existing access points. Carolyn Richardson visited and documented all the sites in the Pawtuxet

watershed. We have information on all the access sites in the Wood-Pawcatuck and have asked the Salt Ponds Coalition to document their sites. This information will feed the web site that Bruce Hooke has proposed to the Council. **WEB SITE:** Bruce Hooke's design for a Blueway and Greenway access site database is under consideration by the Rivers Council. **KICK OFF EVENT:** September 21 – 23, Frank Matta and several other experienced paddlers will kayak from Providence to Westerly. Their trip will be publicized as exemplary of the Blueway concept. We will have a small press event on the 21st to see the paddlers on their way.

RIVERS COUNCIL FINANCES

	Funds remaining (9/13/06)	Anticipated expenses through Oct 31, 2006	Anticipated Balance remaining November 1, 2006
2006 Rhode Island Foundation Grant	\$17,000	\$8,250 (Salary)	\$8,750 (must be used for salary)
2006 Legislative Funds	\$16,921		
	Grant to the Saugatucket	\$3,000	
	Web design for Blueway	\$3,000	
	Watershed Stewards Expenses*	\$2,747	
	Blueway Expenses **	\$800	
	2006 Annual Report	\$300	\$7,074
2007 Legislative Funds			\$49,875
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			\$65,699
Request to the RIF for staff salary support			\$55,000

* Approximately \$847 for test kits, \$900 for Rachel's time, \$400 for copying for notebooks, \$600 for lunch for 3 Saturdays, drinks and snacks for 5 Tuesday evenings

** Estimated -- Carolyn's last invoice, Blueway Long Trail event

RIVERS COUNCIL TRANSITION

Meg will continue with

- Water Trail,
- Back office support,
- Land and Water Conference,
- Workshops

Meg will not be able to continue

- Watershed Stewards
- Grants program,
- Rules coordinator,
- Web site oversight,
- meeting minutes
- Rivers Classification Plan

Meg will complete the following

- Upcoming Watershed Stewards Program (it looks terrific!)
- Grant reporting for current grants
- RC 2006 Annual report

FOR DISCUSSION

1) The Council could consider hiring a staff person (part or full-time) through our contractual relationship with the RINHS. If the Council decides to go in this direction, I recommend that the Council spend some time defining priorities so we can clearly articulate the necessary job specifications. We also need to decide how a staff person will be supervised and managed.

2) I recommend forming a Council executive committee (Chair, Vice Chair, Chair of Funding Committee (should we make this a treasurer?) and I think we need a secretary.